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**Illinois Science and Technology Coalition to Unveil
Illinois Innovation Index Report on STEM Talent Highlighting Record Highs
in Graduates and Workforce Diversity**

March 7, 2024 – (CHICAGO, IL) – The Illinois Science and Technology Coalition (ISTC) is pleased to announce the release of its distinctive Illinois Innovation Index on STEM Talent. This report provides a comprehensive analysis of Illinois' jobs recovery in STEM fields since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, shedding light on key trends in STEM degree conferrals and workforce demographics.

As Illinois continues to solidify its position as a leader in innovation and technology, ISTC remains committed to promoting collaboration among the state's top employers and providing the data that encourages businesses to look to Illinois for investment and expansion. This report showcases the strength of the Illinois STEM talent pool and offers valuable insights for employers seeking to harness the full potential of the state's workforce.

Key highlights from the latest STEM Talent Report include:

- A record high number of STEM graduates in 2022, with 27,434 young learners graduating from Illinois universities with bachelor's degrees or higher in STEM disciplines.
- Illinois ranks third in the nation for pre-baccalaureate completions focusing on STEM subject areas, demonstrating the state's commitment to cultivating a robust pipeline of STEM talent.
- Women comprised a larger percentage of STEM degree recipients in 2022, accounting for just under 40% of Illinois STEM graduates.
- In 2022, women also represented a larger portion of the STEM workforce than ever before in Illinois, with 29.8% of all STEM employees identifying as women, surpassing the national average of 29.55%.

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- A record high number of Black Illinoisans were employed in STEM fields in 2022, with 39,276 individuals, constituting 8.05% of all STEM workers in the state, according to the U.S. Census Bureau's 2022 'American Community Survey.'

"Illinois has one of the most diverse economies in the country. With over 200 institutions of higher education and statewide leadership that continues to invest in continuing education and talent development, we have a well-educated and ready workforce. Through ISTC's programming initiatives, along with our community of partner organizations, we continue to facilitate a thriving technology, innovation, and entrepreneurship ecosystem, making Illinois well positioned for continued growth," said Colleen D. Egan, President/CEO of ISTC. "This report not only celebrates the achievements of young and adult learners but also provides valuable insights for employers, policymakers, and educators as we work together to drive innovation and economic growth in our state."

"At ISTC, we recognize the critical role of STEM talent in driving innovation and economic growth," said Austin Green, Research and Policy Associate at ISTC. "Our STEM Talent Report serves as a comprehensive guide, shedding light on the strengths and challenges of the Illinois Innovation Economy while providing invaluable updates on the evolving job market for aspiring STEM practitioners."

ISTC presented the report today at its release event which included a keynote address by Dr. Jonathon Makela, Associate Dean for Undergraduate Programs for University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign's Grainger College of Engineering. There was a presentation of the STEM Talent Report and an expert panel discussion featuring; Lynette Correa-Velez, Tech Launchpad Director for City Colleges of Chicago, Karen Larson, Director of External Relations for Discovery Partners Institute and Anne Clancy, Higher Education Strategy Executive for T-Mobile.

Request a copy of the [full report here](#). For more information, [subscribe here](#) and [follow us](#) for the latest and greatest from ISTC!

About the Illinois Science & Technology Coalition (ISTC):

The Illinois Science & Technology Coalition is a member-driven non-profit that strengthens the state's innovation economy through data collection, policy advocacy, and impactful programs. Our affiliated Institute provides STEM-education programs that connect classrooms with companies to better prepare the next generation of problem-solvers. For more information, visit ISTCoalition.org.